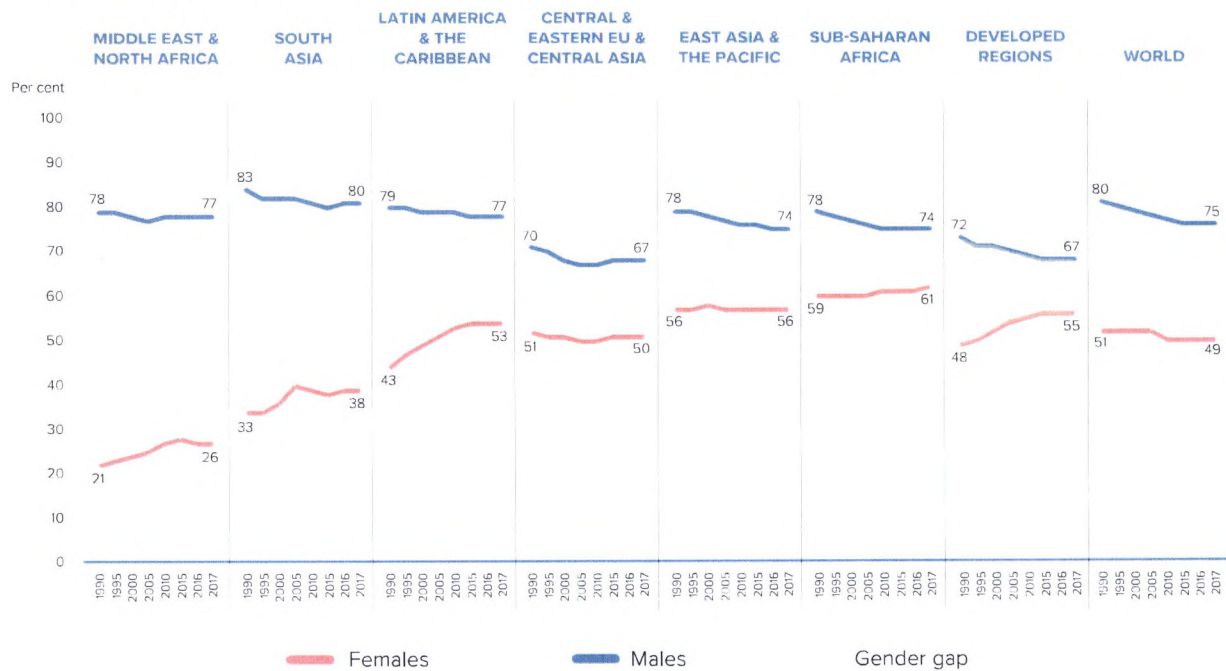


FIGURE 1: Large gender gaps in the labour force (1990-2017)

Labour force participation rate by sex and region, 1990-2017



(Source: Global Affairs Canada calculations using ILO data.)

Improving the livelihoods of women and fostering equal economic opportunity is a universal challenge (see Figure 2 on Inequality in the Workforce between Women and Men – UN Stats, The World's Women, 2015). The World's Women Report further highlights that in 2015 only 50% of working-age women were in the labour force, compared to 77% of working-age men.¹¹ Addressing gender equality in the world of work must begin with an examination of the barriers to women's economic empowerment.

...
**[WOMEN'S] WORK IS
 CONCENTRATED IN SECTORS
 AND OCCUPATIONS THAT
 TEND TO HAVE LOW PAY, IS
 SUBJECT TO LONG HOURS
 AND CARRIES NO SOCIAL
 PROTECTIONS.**

(Source: United Nations (2015). The World's Women 2015: Trends and Statistics pg 87.)